Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for recording a test script comprising:

providing a user interface for entering data and triggering one or more operations to process the data;

translating the data and/or operations to a business layer format;

receiving results of the data and/or operations in a business layer format;

transmitting the entered data, operations and/or results in the business layer format from a test plugin at a business layer to a test control program; and

storing the entered data, operations and/or results in the business layer format within a test script, the test script usable to test an instance of an application at a business layer of the application.

2.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

converting the business layer formatted data, operations and/or results into a location and/or language-neutral format prior to storing.

3.   (Original) The method as in claim 2 wherein the location and/or language-neutral format is based on a predefined XML schema.

4.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

providing the translated data and/or operations to a presentation layer, the presentation layer preparing the data and/or operations according to predefined presentation logic, generating the results of the data and/or operations, and

providing the results to a user interface, the user interface displaying the results of the operations to a user.

5.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

storing the entered data within a test data container rather than directly within the test script, the entered data accessible while testing the instance of the application via a command interface of the test script.

6.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises a browser, the method further comprising:

initializing the browser with a uniform resource locator ("URL"), the URL having a first component identifying an application from which the test script is to be recorded and a second component specifying parameters for recording of the test script.

7.   (Original) The method as in claim 6 wherein one of the parameters comprises a location where said test script is to be stored.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for testing an application comprising:

transmitting a series of business layer data and associated operations to an instance of a business layer of an application, the application processing the test data and associated operations to generate business layer results;

transmitting the business layer results from a test plugin at a business layer to a test control program;

receiving business layer results of the associated operations by the test control program; and

comparing the business layer results to previously-recorded business layer results to determine whether the application is functioning properly.

9.   (Original) The method as in claim 8 further comprising:

formatting the business layer data and/or associated operations in a location/language-neutral format prior to providing the business layer data to the instance of the business layer.

10.   (Original) The method as in claim 9 wherein the location/language-neutral format is defined by an XML schema.

11.   (Original) The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

formatting the business layer results in a location/language-neutral manner.

12.   (Original) The method as in claim 8 further comprising:

reading the series of business layer data and associated operations from a test script stored on a test workstation.

13.   (Currently Amended) A test system comprising:

a user interface to receive data and an indication of one or more specified operations to process the data;

a business layer to process the data according to the specified operations and to generate results of the operations;

a test workstation application program to receive results of the data and/or operations in a business layer format from a test plugin at the business layer and

to transfer the data, operations and/or results of the data and operations to a test control program;

a test script to store the entered data, operations and/or results in the business layer format, the test script usable to test an instance of an application within the business layer of the application.

14.   (Original) The system as in claim 13 further comprising:

a conversion module to convert the data, operations and/or results into a location and/or language-neutral format prior to storing.

15.   (Original) The system as in claim 14 wherein the location and/or language-neutral format is based on a predefined XML schema.

16.   (Original) The system as in claim 13 further comprising:

a presentation layer to prepare the data and/or operations according to predefined presentation logic to display the data and/or operations within a graphical user interface.

17.   (Original) The system as in claim 13 further comprising:

a test data container to store the entered data, the entered data accessible while testing the instance of the application via a command interface of the test script.

18.   (Original) The system as in claim 13 further comprising:

a browser initialized with a uniform resource locator ("URL"), the URL having a first component identifying an application from which the test script is to

be recorded and a second component specifying parameters for recording of the test script.

19.   (Original) The system as in claim 18 wherein one of the parameters comprises a location on a network where said test script is to be stored.

20.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture <u>comprising:</u>
<u>a machine accessible storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations comprising</u> ~~including program code which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of~~:
providing a user interface for entering data and triggering one or more operations to process the data;
translating the data and/or operations to a business layer format;
receiving results of the data and/or operations in a business layer format;
<u>transmitting the entered data, operations and/or results in the business layer format from a test plugin at a business layer to a test control program;</u> and
storing the entered data, operations and/or results in the business layer format within a test script, the test script usable to test an instance of an application at the business layer of the application.

21.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] <u>of</u> claim 20<u>, wherein the machine accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations</u> ~~further~~ comprising ~~program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of~~:

converting the data, operations and/or results into a location and/or language- neutral format prior to storing.

22.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 21 wherein the location and/or language-neutral format is based on a predefined XML schema.

23.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 20, wherein the machine accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations further comprising program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

providing the translated data and/or operations to a presentation layer, the presentation layer preparing the data and/or operations according to predefined presentation logic, generating the results of the data and/or operations, and providing the results to a user interface, the user interface displaying the results of the operations to a user.

24.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 20, wherein the machine accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations further comprising program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

storing the entered data within a test data container, the entered data accessible while testing the instance of the application via a command interface of the test script.

25.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 20 wherein the user interface comprises a browser, the machine accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations, the article of manufacture further comprising program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

initializing the browser with a uniform resource locator ("URL"), the URL having a first component identifying an application from which the test script is to be recorded and a second component specifying parameters for recording of the test script, wherein the user interface comprises a browser.

26.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 25 wherein one of the parameters comprises a location on a network where said test script is to be stored.

27.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture [[as in]] of claim 20, wherein the machine accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform operations further comprising program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

storing data related to the user interface, the data related to the user interface usable to perform checks on the presentation level data.